

Application Serial No. 09/996,799
Attorney Docket No. 59589.000033

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-21, 24, 25 and 27 are pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 21, 24, 27 are amended, and claims 2, 3, 22, 23, 26 and 28-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter set forth therein. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

A. THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action, in paragraph 12, indicates that claims 3-8, 23-24 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant notes the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection as set forth in the Office Action. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended the application based on the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Specifically, the application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 is amended to include features of claims 2 and 3, with claims 2 and 3 canceled.

Claim 6 is amended to include features of claims 1 and 2.

Claim 21 is amended to include features of claims 22 and 23, with claims 22 and 23 canceled.

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Claim 27 is amended to include features of claim 28, with claim 28 canceled.

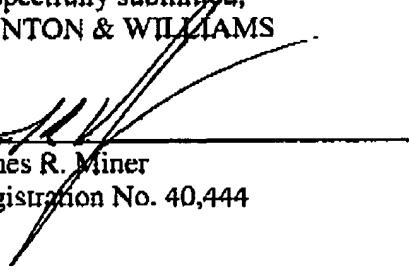
B. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that no fees are necessary in connection with the filing of this document. In the event any fees are necessary, please charge or credit any such fees, including fees for any extensions of time, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below if any assistance might be provided to the Examiner in the examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
HUNTON & WILLIAMS

By:


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